

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 as being anticipated by or obvious in view of Elson, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0014521 (“Elson”) alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,139,177 (“Venkatraman”). Elson discloses a computer “gateway” for an automobile that provides device drivers allowing external applications to request access to networked resources (such as, for example, the car’s speakers), and that manages requests for access to such resources. To access those resources, an application must have knowledge of the gateway and must configure its request in the proper syntax required by the gateway’s operating system. Venkatraman discloses a web access mechanism for a device embedded within the device itself.

Applicant’s invention, on the other hand, comprises an apparatus and method for providing web access to a controllable electronic device in a manner that is transparent to the device and its existing controller. The invention does so by providing a pass-through connection from a first configurable port connected to the controllable electronic device and a second configurable port connected to the device’s controller. Control signals from the controller are passed through to the controllable electronic device in a manner transparent to the controller. The controller and controllable electronic device do not need to be modified to use a new protocol for communicating with each other, and do not need to be aware of the web access apparatus’ presence or existence.

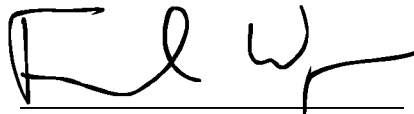
Applicant has cancelled claims 1-37 and added new claims 38-52 to more particularly point out what applicant regards as his invention, including reciting that signals are passed between first and second configurable ports in a manner transparent to the controllable electronic device and its controller, which is not taught by the prior art of record. Accordingly, applicant believes that new claims 38-52 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that they be allowed.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, applicant believes that new claims 38-52 are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that they be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F M Weyer', written over a horizontal line.

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